

N. S. Dried Fish Markets

The dried fish market is always dull at the beginning of January and not much improvement is usually expected before the middle of the month. This condition of things is more true than ever this year, and worse still, there is nothing in the outlook to justify an expectation of improvement in the near future. With world production up and world consumption down, to use a Gilbertian quotation, "the policeman's lot is not a happy one."

The worries of the local exporter these days are chiefly centred on Porto Rico where, owing to the competition of Newfoundland, prices have fallen to \$4.75 per quintal for fish which cost \$5 per quintal f.o.b. Lunenburg. After deducting transportation charges this price shows a loss to the shipper of at least 75c. per quintal. Not much money in that! But it is not only in Porto Rico that the low prices of Newfoundland are being felt by our exporters. In all the other West India islands from Nassau to Demerara the same condition of things prevails. And it is not that Newfoundland wants to cut prices. Of course not. But she is driven to it by her failure to find markets elsewhere because of competition of Iceland fish, which brings us back to a matter we have often mentioned, the disturbance that Iceland created when she became a dominating factor in world supplies of dried fish. If something is not done and done very soon to curb the production of Iceland there is no telling what may happen to the world's dried fish industry generally. We are hopeful that something is going to be done, because, if reports are true, Iceland herself was the biggest loser of any of the fish producing countries last year, and it seems doubtful if her bankers will permit her to repeat this year's performance next season. It will be indeed a great pity if the various fishing countries go on for another year doing the same thing they did in 1930.

We hear that the Lunenburg fleet is to be reduced 10 per cent, or more this year; the definite figures, of course, are not yet available. Lunenburg no doubt feels a bit discouraged with the results of the past year, for not only did she have to accept ruinously low prices, but in addition her catch was short. Let us hope that 1931 will produce for her a greatly increased catch and much higher prices than last year, for a prosperous Lunenburg is an important contributor to the prosperity, not only of Nova Scotia, but of the whole of the Maritime Provinces.—Maritime Merchant.

Portland Fishing News.

Five vessels of the local fishing fleet arrived in port yesterday with a combined catch of 37,000 pounds. Although the fares were comparatively small with Monday's receipts of 67,000 pounds, the dealers were assured of a sufficient supply of sea food. The arrivals were the Alice M. Doughty II with 13,000 pounds, Eleanor with 12,000, Richard J. Nunan with 6,000, Bernie and Bessie with 4,000 and the Annie Louise with 2,000 pounds.

N. S. Pickled Fish.

The export demand for spring mackerel is reported an average. Stocks are ample for requirements. In the past two weeks nearly 3,000 barrels have come to the market from the eastern outports and further quantities are still to come. Prices remain unchanged at \$7.50 to \$7.75 ex boat.

This has been a very mean season for the summer and fall mackerel taken at the Magdalen Islands. These fish are being offered at a very low price, but there is practically no demand. Very few fish are changing hands. Several lots are stored in Halifax and Boston. The trade hopes for an improvement in the market. Sales of bloater mackerel are also dragging, although stocks are very light.

Alewives are reported a little easier owing to a light demand. Present prices are \$4.75 to \$5 ex boat.

No. 1 July grocery herring are a little neglected at present, which is usual at this time of year. Prices are steady at \$8 ex store.

Herring of export quality are moving fairly satisfactorily. Stocks are not heavy. The last price reported was \$5.25 ex vessel.—Maritime Merchant.

SEVENTEEN AT BOSTON TODAY

RECEIPTS TOTAL 475,000 POUNDS
—MARKET OFF SOME FROM YESTERDAY.

Seventeen craft made up the fleet arriving at the Boston fish pier this morning. Some catches were a little better and total receipts were larger. Prices were off some from yesterday's peak. Total receipts were 430,000 pounds of groundfish and 45,000 pounds of mixed fish. Haddock sold at \$6 to \$7; large cod, \$5 to \$6.50, and markets, \$3 to \$4.

Two more large lots of frozen smelts from Canada were received yesterday. One shipment, from New Mills, N. B., comprised 2187 boxes, the other coming from Bathurst and amounting to 1741 boxes. The smelts are shipped in three grades, extra, No. 1 and No. 2.

Boston Arrivals and Receipts.

The arrivals and fares in detail:

Str. Newton, 46,000 haddock, 6500 cod, 5000 mixed fish.

Str. Fabia, 48,000 haddock, 3000 cod, 6900 mixed fish.

Boat Exeter, 19,000 haddock, 1200 cod, 2800 mixed fish.

Sch. Raymonde, 8000 haddock, 800 mixed fish.

Sch. Beauty St. Joseph, 10,000 haddock, 3000 mixed fish.

Boat Gertrude L. Parker, 33,000 haddock, 7000 mixed fish.

Boat Maris Stella, 24,000 haddock, 3000 cod, 1800 mixed fish.

Sch. L. A. Dunton, 32,000 haddock, 24,000 cod, 9000 hake, 8000 cusk.

Sch. Rhodora, 38,000 haddock, 19,000 cod, 5000 cusk.

Sch. Gossoon, 22,000 haddock, 9000 cod, 5500 hake, 3500 cusk.

Boat Leretha, 16,000 haddock, 1000 cod, 1000 sole.

Boat Geraldine and Phyllis, 20,000 haddock, 4000 mixed fish.

Boat Olympia, 4000 haddock, 2500 cod, 3000 mixed fish.

Boat North Star, 100 haddock, 600 cod, 1200 mixed fish.

Boat Two Pals, 1700 haddock, 1100 cod, 3500 mixed fish.

Boat Automatic, 3000 haddock, 700 mixed fish.

Boat Princess, 2300 haddock, 1200 cod, 4100 mixed fish.

Haddock, \$6 to \$7 per cwt.; large cod, \$5 to \$6.50; market cod, \$3 to \$4; hake, \$2 to \$2.50; pollock, \$2 to \$3; cusk, \$2 to \$2.50; gray sole, 6 cents per pound; lemon sole, 10 cents; black backs, 7 cents; yellow tails, 4 cents; dabs, 1 cent; shark, 6 cents; spawn, 12 cents; catfish, 4 cents.

MISSING PORTLAND

MEN ARE SAFE

Captain Joseph C. Harmon of Rockland, Me., and Cecil Hall of Stonington, Me., believed lost at sea during a storm that wrecked Capt. Harmon's auxiliary schooner, arrived at Jonesport, Me., yesterday from Peat Manan Lighthouse, where they had found safety during the gale.

SCH. MAGELLAN ONLY ARRIVAL

LANDED SMALL FARE OF FRESH FISH AT FORT THIS MORNING.

The only fresh fish fare received today was from the shore fishing schooner Magellan which came in curing the forenoon and took out 7000 pounds at the Cape Ann Cold Storage Company at the Fort. Sixteen gill netters lifted yesterday and brought in 34,000 pounds of fish. No other receipts of any kind have been reported since yesterday.

Gloucester Arrivals and Receipts.

The arrivals and fares in detail:

Sch. Magellan, shore, 7000 lbs. fresh fish.

Sch. Alpar, via Boston.

Yesterday's Gill Net Receipts.

Boat Enterprise, 1000 lbs. fresh fish.

Boat Agnes and Myrnie, 2000 lbs. fresh fish.

Boat Inca, 6000 lbs. fresh fish.

Boat Mary A., 4000 lbs. fresh fish.

Boat Serafina II., 1500 lbs. fresh fish.

Boat Phyllis A., 1000 lbs. fresh fish.

Boat Mary J. Landry, 1000 lbs. fresh fish.

Boat Nashawena, 2000 lbs. fresh fish.

Boat Liboria C., 2000 lbs. fresh fish.

Boat Alicia, 1500 lbs. fresh fish.

Boat Joanna, 2500 lbs. fresh fish.

Boat Edna Fae, 3000 lbs. fresh fish.

Boat Lucretia, 1200 lbs. fresh fish.

Boat Elizabeth and James, 2000 lbs. fresh fish.

Boat Virginia and Joan, 1500 lbs. fresh fish.

Boat Ramona, 2000 lbs. fresh fish.

Sailed

Sch. Ruth and Margaret, dragging.

Sch. Evelyn G. Sears, shore.

Sch. Babe Sears, dragging.

Sch. Aloma, shore.

Boat Col. Lindbergh, dragging.